

Billings Area Injury Prevention Newsletter

Billings Area Indian Health Service

January-March 2009 Edition

Volume 3, Issue 1

Indian Health Service Injury Prevention Program Development Fellowship Class of 2008 Meets in Albuquerque, NM for Final Course

February 2009- The Indian Health Service (IHS) Injury Prevention (IP) Program Development Fellowship Class of 2008 met in Albuquerque, NM for the final of four scheduled courses during the first week of February 2009. A total of nine Program Development Fellows attended the course in Albuquerque, NM.

The IP Program Development Fellowship is a 12-month advanced learning experience for individuals promoting injury prevention in American Indian/Alaska Native communities. It combines course work, hands-on experiences, assistance from injury prevention experts, and completion of a community injury prevention project.

American Indian/Alaska Native communities.

-Prepare an abstract, poster, and Power Point presentation pertaining to individual projects.

-Understand the essentials of creating a program budget and budget justification.

The next step for IP Fellows is to wrap up their year long injury prevention projects. Some tasks will include submitting a finalized project paper and Power Point presentation of their projects. The IP Fellows are scheduled to present their findings to a nationwide audience on Thursday, May 7th, 2009 at IHS headquarters in Rockville, MD.

Below is a list of names and projects for the graduating IHS IP Program Development Fellowship Class of 2008:

-Amy Cozad, Kiowa Tribe, Carnegie, OK; Kiowa Tribal member- Zuni Life Skills Curriculum.

-Darcy Merchant, Billings Area IHS, Billings, MT; Crow/Blackfeet Tribal member- Spatial Analysis of Motor Vehicle Crashes.

-Fleurette Brown-Edison, Many Farms OEHE, Many Farms, AZ; Navajo Tribal member- Ocean abuse.

-Janelle Trottier, IHS Office of Medical Care, Aberdeen, SD; turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa-Gang Violence.

-Jason Hymer, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Nome, AK; Suicide in Alaska Villages.

-Lyndon Endischnee, Tuba City RHCC, Tuba City, AZ; Navajo Tribal member-ATV Helmet Law for Navajo Tribe.

-Mary Robertson-Begay, Hardrock Council on SA, Kykotsmovi, AZ; Navajo Tribal member-Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

-Robin Lee, Winnebago Hospital, Aberdeen, SD; Yankton Sioux Tribal member-Suicide Case Management.

-Toni Short, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Binger, OK; Navajo Tribal member-Underage Drinking.

For more information on the IHS IP Program Development Fellowship please contact Nancy Bill, Principle IHS IP Program Manager at 301-443-0105 or Dr. Larry Berger, IHS IP Program Development Curriculum Director at 505-275-3153.



Photo courtesy of Toni Short.

Pictured above l-r: Jason Hymer, Fleurette Brown-Edison, Janelle Trottier, Robin Lee, and Lyndon Endischnee attend one of the course sessions .

The February course focused on presentation, legal issues, and resource development. The fellowship course goals and learning objectives comprised of the following:

- Enhance skills for oral and written presentations.
- Enhance knowledge and skill in obtaining program funding.
- Prepare for the IHS Injury Prevention Symposium in Washington, D.C. in May 2009.
- Complete individual projects.
- Visit an injury prevention program at the Pueblo of Walatowa (Jemez), NM.
- Learn about legal issues of injury prevention in

"INJURIES ARE PREVENTABLE!"

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Injury Prevention Links

Indian Health Service



IHS.gov

Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program



IHS Injury Prevention Program

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



cdc.gov

CDC- Injury, Violence, and Safety



Injury, Violence, Safety website





The National Wellness Institute

2009

Health & Wellness
Observances Calendar

April 2009

National Youth Sports Safety Month

nyssf.org

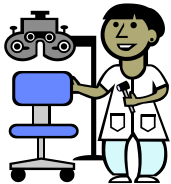


Sexual Assault Awareness Month

nsrvc.org

Women's Eye Health and Safety Month

preventblindness.org



National SAFE KIDS Week April 26 - May 3

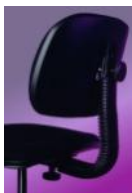
safekids.org



May 2009

Correct Posture Month

amerchiro.org



Area Wide News and Events

Buckle Bear Teaches Local Fort Belknap Head Start Students the Importance of Buckling Up While in Their Vehicles

February 2009, Ft. Belknap, MT– The Billings Area Indian Health Service and the Fort Belknap Injury Prevention Programs teamed up to bring Buckle Bear to Fort Belknap Head Start Centers in Lodgepole, Hays, and the Fort Belknap Agency this past February.

Buckle Bear is a program designed for Head Start students to promote and encourage these youngster to adopt positive and responsible roles for their own passenger safety in motor vehicles.

Presenters for the Buckle Bear curriculum were conducted by Stan Zander, Jr, Fort Belknap Tribal Injury Prevention Coordinator; Avis Spencer, Fort Belknap Tribal Injury Prevention Coordinator; and Darcy Merchant, Assistant Area IHS Injury Prevention Specialist.

Materials presented to Head Start students entitled, "Riding with Buckle Bear," is a reusable curriculum that teaches kids the importance of buckling up every time they ride in a car. After the children learned about passenger safety, the final treat is to meet Buckle Bear!

In addition, Head Start students were also given stickers, coloring books, sweet treats, and learned new songs they can practice everyday with their classmates to reinforce the importance of passenger safety.

To bring Buckle Bear to your community, please call Darcy Merchant at 406-247-7097 or email at

Darcy.Merchant@ihs.gov



Pictured above: Buckle Bear poses with Lodgepole Head Start students.



Pictured above: Avis Spencer demonstrates the importance of buckling up in a car seat using a stuffed bear at the Hays Head Start Program.



Pictured above: Stan Zander, Jr. suited up in the Buckle Bear outfit for the local Head Start students.



Pictured above: Buckle Bear shakes hands with local Fort Belknap Agency Head Start students.



The National Wellness Institute

2009

Health & Wellness
Observances Calendar

May 2009

Healthy Vision Month/ UV Safety

healthyvision2010.org/hvm



Buckle Up America! Week/Click It or Ticket Week, May 18– June 1, 2009

nhtsa.gov



June 2009

Fireworks Safety Months, June/July

preventblindness.org



National Safety Month

nsc.org



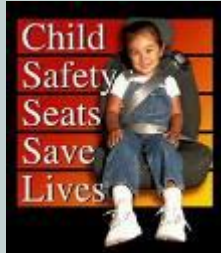
Area Wide News and Events

Blackfeet Service Unit

January 2009-

Ride Safe Program – Blackfeet Tribal Head Start Program

The Blackfeet Tribal Head Start Program received a grant from the Indian Health Service Ride Safe Program to implement a child safety seat program. Over two hundred child safety seats (convertible and high back booster seats) have been purchased and will be disseminated to all the children ages 3 to 5 years old that are currently enrolled at all the Tribal Head Start schools on the reservation. Ms. Shelly Hall, Ride Safe Coordinator, has implemented the training module, activities for the children and provided training for the Head Start staff and parents. The project will be completed by June 2009.



Article submitted by Jodee Dennison, Area Injury Prevention Specialist, Billings Area IHS, OEHE, Injury Prevention Program. For further questions or information, please call Jodee Dennison at 406-247-7098.



Fort Belknap Service Unit

February 2009–

Elderly Fall and Fire Prevention Project – Fort Belknap Reservation

The Elderly Fall Prevention Project on the Fort Belknap reservation is currently conducting environmental homes assessment surveys. Over 40 surveys have been completed by the Community Health Representatives and the Fort Belknap Tribal Environmental Health staff. The project will purchase and provide grab bars, bath mats, night lights and smoke alarms. The target group for the project will be the elderly 65 years and older. The project will be completed by September 2009.

Article submitted by Jodee Dennison, Area Injury Prevention Specialist, Billings Area IHS, OEHE, Injury Prevention Program. For further questions or information, please call Jodee Dennison at 406-247-7098.

Fort Peck Service Unit

January 2009- Members of the Ft Peck Injury Prevention Coalition attended hearings on the State of Montana's Primary Seat Belt Bill held on January 27th, 2009 at the state capitol in Helena, MT. Those who testified were pro-



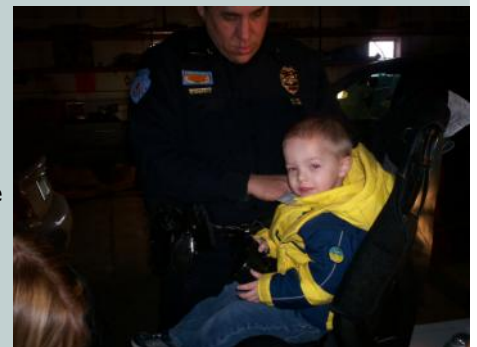
ponents of the primary seatbelt legislation and gave reasons for why a primary seatbelt law should be passed in Montana. Those who testified were Eugene Stump, Ft. Peck Highway Safety Officer; Louis Peterson, Ft. Peck Tribes Council member; Captain Jim Summers, Ft. Peck Law and Justice Officer; and Adrian Spotted Bird, Ft. Peck Tribe Injury Prevention Coordinator.



Pictured above: Louis Peterson, Ft. Peck Tribes Council Member gives testimony on behalf of the Ft. Peck Tribes for the Montana Primary Seat Belt bill.

February 2009–

A car seat clinic was held this past February 4th, 2009 in Wolf Point, MT at the local Ft. Peck enterprise Complex. The clinic was a success with as many as 50 children who participated and received new car seats. The event involved many agencies and personnel including Ft. Peck Highway Safety Officers Eugene Stump, Steve Barr, Sean Red Boy; Roosevelt County Officers Philline Moran and Richey McDonald. Ft. Peck Tribal Councilman Louis Peterson was on hand to help with the event, Mr. Peterson continues to demonstrate his willingness to promote injury prevention for the Ft.



Peck Tribe. I would like to thank Randi Szabo from Banik Communications for promoting the event on the radio. This event could not have been possible without the collaborative effort from all the different agencies. Thank you to all who participated!

Articles submitted by Adrian Spotted Bird, Ft. Peck IP Coordinator, 406-768-5322.



Crow Service Unit

March 2009- *Editors Note: The following is a joint press release from the Big Horn County and Crow DUI Task Forces. We have endeavored to make this letter-to-the-editor generic, so, that it can impact a statewide audience. We are releasing this to State and Tribal agencies, so that it can be included in your publications.*

Sobering Statistics

In light of recent tragic vehicle crashes, in which five Native American fatalities were recorded on Montana roads in a single day, (February 20, 2009), and results of a February 23, 2009 safety restraint Survey done on a Reservation street resulting in 45% drivers and passengers buckled up and 55% not buckled up; we are once again reminded that the vehicle traveling population needs to be encouraged to buckle up when operating a vehicle even for a short distance in town as well as on the highways.

A common denominator in at least two of the crashes is that the persons who were killed were not buckled up, while alcohol was involved in another. This whole sequence of tragedies illustrates the need for public awareness. While not all persons are drinking and driving, a good deal ignore the seat belt law because it is not a primary offense and some are at higher risk because they are drinking and driving and not buckled up or are passengers with a driver under the influence.

The survey also revealed four children between the ages of 5 and 10, riding in passenger seats not buckled up; two babies riding in the arms of a passenger, not in baby seats; one GSA vehicle driver with no seat belt restraint and traveling too fast to catch the plate number; three children riding in the back of a pick-up; and six drivers totally involved with talking on their cell phones entering the highway. A sudden stop or impact for any one of these vehicles could potentially produce multiple fatalities!

Although the Montana primary safety restraint law did not pass for 2009, the public must realize that buckling up, when in a vehicle, isn't just abiding by the law; it is to save your life. In the event of a vehicle crash, the chance of survival significantly improves when you are buckled up. Many persons, who were adequately restrained by their seat belts, walk away from a crash with only slight injuries.

Please buckle up whenever you drive and ride in a vehicle and don't ever Drink and Drive; and don't ride with someone whose been drinking. Your life and health could very well depend on the choices you make. The statistics display disrespect for lives and children, through a lack of use of basic vehicle restraints. The preventable deaths and injuries that could have been avoided are the greatest tragedies. Let's work together to change this!

Deb Haines
(Blackfeet)
Crow DUI Task Force Coordinator

Mark Humphrey
(Cherokee/Crow)
Big Horn County DUI Task Force Coordinator

Article submitted by Mark Humphrey, Coordinator, Big Horn County DUI Task Force. For further questions or information, please call Mark Humphrey at 406-665-9704.

Editors Note: No Injury Prevention activities reported for January –March 2009 for the following Service Units/Tribal Health Departments: Wind River, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Health Department, and Rocky Boy Tribal Health Department.



Events, Schedules, & Announcements

April 2009

April 2009– A National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, Child Passenger Safety Technician Training will be held in Bozeman, MT on April 6th-9th, 2009. To register for this course please [click here](#) for more information.

April 2009– The “Honoring the Circle and Sober Behind the Wheel: a presentation for teen drivers 2009,” is aimed at tribal high school students to reduce impaired driving and increase seat belt usage. This event utilizes a DUI Go Kart Simulation and presentations will follow in a school assembly, this event is set to begin at the Ft. Belknap Indian Reservation on April 9th-10th, 2009 at the Hays and Harlem High Schools.

April 2009– The “Honoring the Circle and Sober Behind the Wheel: a presentation for teen drivers 2009,” is scheduled for April 14th, 2009 at Plenty Coups High School.

April 2009– The “Honoring the Circle and Sober Behind the Wheel: a presentation for teen drivers 2009,” is scheduled for April 15th, 2009 at Busby High School.

April 2009– The “Honoring the Circle and Sober Behind the Wheel: a presentation for teen drivers 2009,” is scheduled for April 17th, 2009 at Lodge Grass High School.

April 2009– The “Honoring the Circle and Sober Behind the Wheel: a presentation for teen drivers 2009,” is scheduled for April 23rd, 2009 at Wolf Point High School.

April 2009– The “Honoring the Circle and Sober Behind the Wheel: a presentation for teen drivers 2009,” is scheduled for April 24th, 2009 at Poplar High School.

April 2009– The 4th Annual “Celebrating Children” Fair will be held in Wolf Point, MT on April 25th, 2009.

May 2009

May 2009– The Indian Health Service, Injury Prevention Program Development Fellowship 2008 graduates present projects at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, MD on May 7th, 2009.

Funding Announcement

The 2009/2010 Indian Health Service Ride Safe/Sleep Safe Program application is now available please [click here](#) to be directed to the IHS, Injury Prevention website for further download information.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Highway Safety Program has released the application for the 2009 Child Passenger Safety Seat Program. Last day to submit applications: July 31, 2009. Please [click here](#) to download an application.



State of Montana News & Events

Safe On All Roads Update

Montana Department of Transportation Native American Traffic Safety

The objectives of the Safe On All Roads (SOAR) program are to reduce traffic related deaths and injuries on the American Indian reservations in Montana. The program relies on local coordinators and advisors to target audiences of young adults, youth and families. The program has been very active promoting seat belt use during the first three months of 2009. Here is an update on the recent activities of the SOAR program.



Valentine's Campaign: Wear seat belts proudly

The program uses the Valentine's holiday for a timely reminder that buckling up is the best gift for the people you love. This year, the Safe On All Roads program used an unexpected attention-getter: abalone shell jewelry. The shell jewelry is a metaphor for a gift given out of love. Mike Todd, an enrolled Assiniboine from the Fort Peck Reservation, developed the concept that was used in radio and newspaper ads on all reservations in the state.

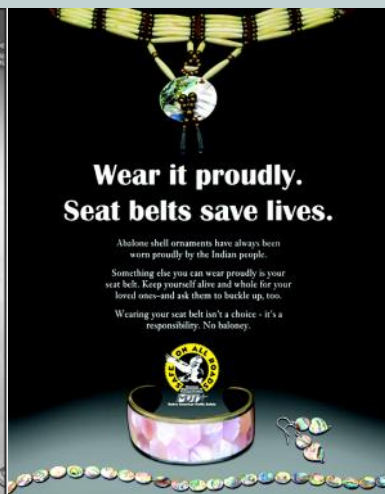
"The Indian people have always proudly worn a gift of abalone jewelry," Todd said. "They can also be proud to wear a seat belt as a sign of their love and responsibility to their family," he said.



The campaign radio spot ("How abalone jewelry was born") uses humor to tie the theme together. The SOAR program sent out 120 pairs of abalone shell earrings that were given away in drawings at Sweetheart round dances and other public events during February. The Valentine campaign materials can be viewed at www.safeonallroads.com.



Newspaper ad



Native Montana magazine ad

Basketball Season Seat Belt Promotions

Local SOAR coordinators worked to get seat belt messages to Indian families during the basketball season, selected district tournaments and during sponsorships of a Men's and Women's Open tourney in Box Elder and the annual Poplar Youth Tournament in Poplar. Imprinted t-shirts, mini-basketballs and team license plate holders were given out. At some schools, half-time shoot-outs for "Buckle Up Buckets" were held. Announcers gave seat belt talking points over public address. A few reservation high schools placed seat messages on reader boards and team programs. In Wolf Point and Box Elder, crowd-pleasing fun was added when a "Buckle Up" placard was mounted on a radio-controlled truck sent out on the floor during half-time and time-outs.

Safe Driver Database

In December of 2006, the SOAR program developed a contract for individuals to sign at public events and tribal college campuses. The contract is a pledge to always buckle up, make sure everyone in their vehicle is safely restrained, be an advocate for seat belt use in their community, never drive after drinking and never ride with a driver who has been drinking. A database of the Safe Driver Contracts has recently been completed. A total of 1,459 individuals on the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Northern Cheyenne and Rocky Boy's reservations have signed the pledge to date. Mailings and further prize award drawings are planned for these Safe Drivers in Indian communities.

Student Peer Education Traffic Safety Radio Contest

The SOAR program is still accepting entries in a contest primarily for high school students on the reservations. The contest deadline has been extended to March 31, 2009. Radio scripts or original compositions on the topics of sober driving or seat belt use are eligible. Contest rules and entry forms are available at www.safeonallroads.com.

www.safeonallroads.com now online

Brief information about the program and the local coordinators who make it successful is now available on a new web site. Additional materials developed for the program are also available if you email info@safeonallroads.com.

Fort Peck Elders Youth Empowerment Program

Safe On All Roads is among several agencies and organizations helping to sponsor Elders' classes for youth and community on the Fort Peck Reservation. Stories, tribal history and the teaching of traditional skills are providing a platform for the reduction of risk behaviors, including drinking and driving and failure to wear seat belts, among others.

Coming up: Graduation Impaired Driving Prevention

SOAR coordinators are currently collaborating on a spring campaign targeted at teens and young adults to encourage safe and sober driving. Media placement will start in late April.

Article submitted by Randi Szabo, Program Manager, Safe On All Roads, MT Dept. of Transportation, Native American Traffic Safety. For further questions or information, please call Randi Szabo at 406-454-3422, ext. 103.

Safety Spotlight:



Never Leave Children Unattended in or around Vehicles...Not Even for a Minute

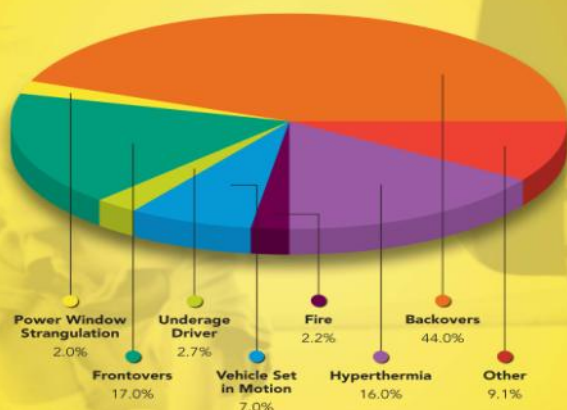
Many caring and responsible parents have left their children alone in a car, not realizing the risks involved. Some parents think it is okay to leave a child alone in a car while they run to an ATM, quickly drop off dry cleaning or while dropping off another child at school. The results of leaving a child unattended in or around a vehicle can be deadly.

STATISTICS

KIDS AND CARS maintains a national database tracking deaths and injuries to children left unattended in or around motor vehicles. Currently no federal or state agency is collecting information related to deaths and injuries that occur as non-traffic incidents on private property.

U.S. FATALITIES BY TYPE (2002 – 2007)

Nontraffic Fatalities Involving Children < 15 Years Old



Data Source: KIDS AND CARS, www.KidsAndCars.org

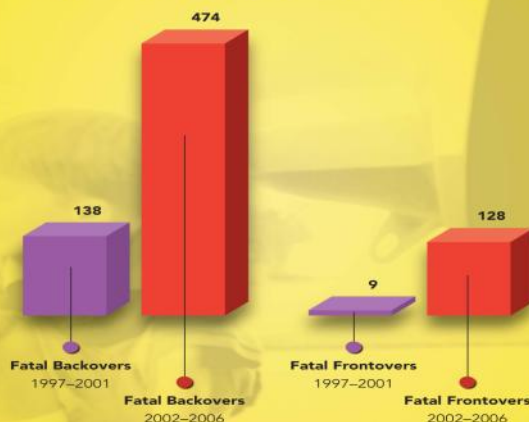


The DANGERS Include!!!

- Heat stroke and death
- Injury from a vehicle backing up
- Abduction
- Strangulation in a power window
- Setting a car in motion
- Trunk entrapment

LACK OF VISIBILITY CAUSES BACKOVER AND FRONTOVER FATALITIES TO CHILDREN

1997–2001 Compared to 2002–2006



Data Source: KIDS AND CARS, www.KidsAndCars.org. Data vastly underestimates the true magnitude of the problem.



Additional Safety Tips for Parents and Caregivers:

- Know where children are at all times
- Never leave a child unattended in or around a vehicle.
- Place an item you will need – purse, diaper bag, gym bag, employee ID – in the back seat on the floor near the child. Always open the back door when you arrive at your destination to ensure nobody has been left behind.
- Teach children not to play in and around vehicles because drivers may not be able to see them. Identify safe play areas for them away from vehicles.
- Never leave toys and sporting items on the driveway.
- Keep trees and bushes trimmed for clear view of pedestrians around sidewalks and driveways.
- Hold a child's hand or keep them close when getting in and out of a vehicle.
- Keep keys and remote entry devices out of the reach of children. Lock the car with the windows up at all times, especially at home.
- If a child is missing, check the vehicle and the car trunk immediately.



Mission of the Indian Health Service

THE MISSION OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE IS TO RAISE THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, SOCIAL, AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

THE GOAL TO ASSURE THAT COMPREHENSIVE, CULTURALLY ACCEPTABLE PERSONAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TO AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE.

OUR FOUNDATION. TO UPHOLD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATION TO PROMOTE HEALTH FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, AND CULTURES AND TO HONOR AND PROTECT THE INHERENT SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF TRIBES.

Injury Prevention Program

OUR MISSION:

TO RAISE THE HEALTH STATUS OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKAN NATIVES TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL BY DECREASING THE INCIDENCE OF SEVERE INJURIES AND DEATH TO THE LOWEST POSSIBLE LEVEL AND INCREASING THE ABILITY OF TRIBES TO ADDRESS THEIR INJURY PROBLEMS.



Billings Area Injury Prevention
Newsletter is edited by Darcy
Merchant.



Billings Area Indian
Health Service

Office of Environmental
Health & Engineering

Injury Prevention
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Please [click here](#) to visit the
Billings Area Indian Health Ser-
vice website.



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like to get your feedback to im-
prove the newsletter! Please send
an email to [baohsipnewslet-
ter@hotmail.com](mailto:baohsipnewslet-
ter@hotmail.com) to provide com-
ments.